



News Release

DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC SECURITY
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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SEARCH ON FOR ARIZONA'S MOST OUTSTANDING OLDER WORKER

(PHOENIX – April 24, 2002) – The Department of Economic Security Aging and Adult Administration is searching for Arizona's most outstanding older worker. For the fifth year, outstanding older workers from every state and outstanding employers of older worker, will be honored in Washington, D.C. The Experience Works Prime Time Awards Program was launched in 1998 to highlight the valuable contributions that older workers are making to their communities and places of work. This year's Prime Time Awards Program activities culminate with a weeklong series of events, capped by a gala awards banquet and ceremony on Saturday, September 21, at historic Union Station. The winners and an accompanying person will be guests of Experience Works during their trip to the nation's capital.

Arizona is currently soliciting nominations from businesses and individuals. Applicants must be 65 years of age or older, currently employed, and working a minimum of 20 hours a week in paid employment. The winner must be willing and able to travel to Washington, D.C., in September for the Prime Time Awards Program events. Applications who are part of a subsidized employment program funded through local, state or national government support programs are not eligible for this award.

Nominations must include a brief narrative that describes the older worker's overall contribution to the business, including longevity, experience, skill level, work ethic, any disabilities the nominee has overcome to perform his/her job, and a description of his/her community involvement. Workers may enter themselves or be nominated by an employer, family or friends. The deadline for nominations is **May 31, 2002**.

Arizona's 2001 outstanding older worker was Velma Bailey, 93, a resident of Sun City who is a food service worker at the Boswell Memorial Hospital. Previous winners include Norman Hall, Sr., 89, a purchasing agent from Surprise, and Clarence Wilcox, 91 a civil engineer from Huachuca City.

To receive a nomination form by mail, send a post card or note to Prime Time Awards, c/o Maria Ramirez-Trillo, Older Worker Unit Manager, Aging & Adult Administration (950A), 1789 W. Jefferson, Phoenix, Arizona 85007, or call (602) 542-6434. To access a nomination form online, go to the Experience Works Web site at www.experienceworks.org